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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

PATEL, HARESH N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/777,959

Applicant(s)

QIAN ET AL.

Examiner

Haresh Patel

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12, 13, 23 and 24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ☐
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/22/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 are presented for examination. Claims 12, 13, 23 and 24 are restricted.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-11 and 14-22, in the reply filed on 7/9/2004, is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that even though the Group I invention and Group II (claims 12, 13, 23, 24) invention are distinct inventions, the claims of Group I and Group II appear to be part of overlapping search area and would not place a serious burden on the examiner. This is not found persuasive because the search for Group I invention is necessary in subclass 227 and relative subclasses 223 to 226 of class 709. The search for Group II invention is necessary in subclass 203 and relative subclass 202. Hence, both the inventions are not part of overlapping search area. Since, a separate search is necessary for Group I invention and Group II invention, it is indeed a serious burden on the examiner.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. Examiner examines applicant elected Group I, i.e., claims 1-11 and 14-22.

Priority

4. Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged.

Specification

5. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The present title is not sufficient for proper classification of the claimed subject matter.

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The following title is suggested: "Multiple client users to interact with secure web page together over the Internet".

Information Disclosure Statement

6. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449, Paper dated, 6/22/2001, is attached to the instant Office action.

Claim Objections

7. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:
- Claim 1 mentions that "and to second create", which should be "and second to create".
- Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1, 9, 14, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
9. Claims 1 and 14 recites the limitations, "one client of the group", "to prevent the web site", "the same temporary identifier", "the same web page", "all the clients in the group". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Also, it is not clear which client is referred for display.

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10. Claims 9 and 20, recite the limitations, "the identity", "the same web page", "the group". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Also, it is not clear which group is referred by each member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

12. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 14-17, 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Quatrano et al., Cisco Technology Inc., 6,748,420 (Hereinafter Quatrano-Cisco).

13. As per claims 1, 9, 14 and 20, Quatrano-Cisco teaches a method and a group-browsing system as follows:

a plurality of clients (e.g., figure 1) each including a shared web browser (e.g., figure 6);

a server (e.g., figure 6) linked to the shared web browser of each client and configured to monitor the transmission of a web site URL request from the shared web browser of one client of the group and to direct that request to the shared web browser of other clients in the group (e.g., col., 23, line 61 – col., 24, line 17, figure 5); and

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a gatekeeper module configured to first mask the identity of each client computer (e.g., figure 6, col., 6, lines 1-24) to prevent the web site from retrieving any client's actual identifier and (e.g., col., 25, line 46 – col., 26, line 21) to second create the same temporary identifier for each client when any client logs on to the web site so that the same web page is displayed for all the clients in the group (e.g., col., 25, line 46 – col., 26, line 21).

14. As per claims 2, Quatrano-Cisco teaches the following:

the group-browsing system is a scalable secure system (e.g., col., 30, lines 1-21, figure 8).

15. As per claims 3, Quatrano-Cisco teaches the following:

the gatekeeper module resides on each client (e.g., multiple adapters that can reside on separate systems, col., 30, lines 8 – 21).

16. As per claims 4, 10, 15 and 21, Quatrano-Cisco teaches the following:

the identifier is a cookie and the temporary identifier is a temporary cookie (e.g., col., 25, line 46 – col., 26, line 21, figure 6).

17. As per claims 5, 11, 16 and 22, Quatrano-Cisco teaches the following:

the gatekeeper further including means for deleting the temporary identifier at the end of a group-browsing session to prevent any client from returning to the web site identified as another client (e.g., col., 29, lines 26 – 64).

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18. As per claims 6 and 17, Quatrano-Cisco teaches the following:

the gatekeeper further including means for generating a warning message when any client logs on to the web site to inform that client that the other clients in the group will now be able to access that clients private information (e.g., col., 28, line 47 – col., 29, line 11).

19. As per claims 8 and 19, Quatrano-Cisco teaches the following:

client software configured to detect the end of a group-browsing session and, in response, to direct a client's secure browser to transmit the web site URL to allow the client to return to the previously accessed web site (e.g., col., 29, lines 40 – 64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

20. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

21. Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quatrano-Cisco in view of "Official Notice".

22. As per claims 7 and 18, Quatrano-Cisco teaches the claimed limitations rejected under claims 1 and 14. However, Quatrano-Cisco does not specifically mention about tracking the actions of all clients for billing purposes. "Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing tracking the actions of all clients for billing purposes is well known and expected in the art.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include tracking the actions of all clients for billing purposes with the teachings of Quatrano-Cisco in order to facilitate charging clients for the usage of the website information. The well-known concept of monitoring the action of all clients utilizing the web information usage would help bill the clients according the web content usage and based on the duration of the web information usage.

Conclusion

23. Examiner makes a very clear note that the rational of the applicant's invention has been clearly taught by Quatrano-Cisco. Applicant's invention does contain few minor additional matters that facilitate the concepts of the applicant's invention. However, the additional minor matters are well known in the art.

24. Examiner has found numerous arts related to the disclosed subject matter. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See Form PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hareh Patel whose telephone number is 703-605-5234. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 703-305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Haresh Patel

September 28, 2004


JOHN EOLLANSBEE
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